

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
IO-13 ACDA-07 /082 W

-----113933 281719Z /53

O P 281709Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4890

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, US, LE, SY

SUBJECT: EDDE COMMENTS ON ASSAD'S ROLE IN LEBANON

REFS: A. PARIS 18675 B. STATE 148943

1. IN AN INTERVIEW APPEARING IN LE MONDE OF JUNE 29, RAYMOND EDDE REFERS TO ASSAD'S COMMENTS IN AL MUSTAQBAL (REF A) AND SAYS THAT THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT IS WELL PLACED TO MAKE A GRAVE ACCUSATION AGAINST THE US SINCE "HE WAS ONE OF THE EXECUTORS OF THE AMERICAN PLAN TO PARTITION LEBANON". HE CHARGES THAT BEGINNING IN JULY 1973, ASSAD SENT SYRIAN TROOPS TO PROTECT PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON. "ASSAD HAD EVERY INTEREST IN PROVOKING A CONFLICT BETWEEN LEBANESE AND PALESTINIANS, AFTER HAVING ARMED THE LATTER IN ORDER THEN TO FLY TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE THREATENED CHRISTIANS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SUCCEEDING IN OCCUPYING ALL OF LEBANON AS FAR AS THE LITANI RIVER, REPRESENTING THE 'RED LINE' NOT TO BE CROSSED, FIXED BY ISRAEL." EDDE ALSO ACCUSES ASSAD
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OF BEING UNDERSTANDABLY SILENT ABOUT HIS ATTEMPT TO REALIZE "GREATER SYRIA" BY ANNEXING ALL OR PART OF LEBANON.

2. "THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT ASSAD'S INTEREST IN CARRYING OUT THE AMERICAN PLAN", EDDE SAYS, AND ADDS, "IT WOULD NOW BE INTERESTING TO LEARN

WASHINGTON'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT ASSAD'S ACCUSATION."

3. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE AL MUSTAQBAL ARTICLE HAS CREATED CONSIDERABLE COMMENT IN LOCAL ARAB CIRCLES. THOSE WHO CLAIM TO KNOW ASSAD DECLARE THAT HE EITHER WAS MISQUOTED OR HAS SOMETHING SPECIFIC IN MIND. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE INTERVIEWER DID NOT TAKE NOTES DURING HIS REPORTED TWO HOUR CONVERSATION WITH ASSAD, BUT PUT PEN TO PAPER ONLY AFTER THE MEETING.

4. WE POUCHING AL MUSTAQBAL ARTICLE, ALONG WITH PARTIAL FRENCH TRANSLATION CARRIED IN LE MONDE OF JUNE 26-27.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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